

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 161007Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9023

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3907

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: CALL ON COLONEL DEUANE SOUNNARATH,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERIOR

1. PURSUING MY VISITS ON MEMBERS OF PGNU, I CALLED THIS MORNING ON SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERIOR, DEUANE SOUNNARATH, LONG-TIME NEUTRALIST LEADER. CONVERSATION WAS IN FRENCH TRANSLATED BY KEOLA, "ATTACHE DE CABINET" TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PHOUMI VONGVICHIT.

2. AS IS CUSTOMARY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CONVERSATION WAS MOST PLEASANT AND FULL OF EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL GOODWILL. POINTS OF INTEREST MADE BY DEUANE WERE THESE:

A. LAOS NEEDS AID FOR RECONSTRUCTION FROM ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AMERICA.

B. DEUANE HOPES THAT AMERICA WILL CARRY OUT
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PRESIDENT NIXON'S POLICY OF SUPPORTING THE INDEPENDENCE

AND NEUTRALITY OF LAOS.

C. LAOS WANTS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES.

3. I MADE A POINT OF THE INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO FATE OF EMMET KAY. TO THIS DEUANE ANSWERED HE FELT SURE HE WOULD BE RELEASED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS. THERE WERE STILL SOME DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG HAD TO BE NEUTRALIZED. ALL FOREIGN TROOPS HAD TO BE WITHDRAWN. I ASSURED HIM THAT ALL AMERICAN AND THAI FORCES WOULD BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY WELL BEFORE JUNE 3 AND THAT WE INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT FULLY ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENTS FOR WHICH WE HAD SOME RESPONSIBILITY.

4. I ALSO EMPHASIZED ONCE MORE THAT US POLICY WAS TO SUPPORT THIS GOVERNMENT. IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE FULL AND FRANK RELATIONS BECAUSE FALSE RUMOURS WERE VERY EASILY STARTED IN THIS TOWN, AS WE HAD SEEN LAST WEEK. DEUANE AGREED BUT POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE STILL ELEMENTS IN VIENTIANE THAT WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO TORPEDO THE AGREEMENTS. HE RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A COUP ATTEMPT LAST AUGUST. I MADE THE POINT THAT THE WAY WE HAD ACTED AT THAT TIME SHOULD SATISFY ANYONE WITH REGARD TO US POLICY. DEUANE READILY ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND ECHOED MY WISH TO MAINTAIN GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS.

5. I ALSO RAISED THE KAY CASE ON MAY 15 WITH SOUKAN VILAYSARN, THE VIENTIANE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE JOINT COMMISSION. SOUKAN SAID THE COMMUNISTS WERE STUBBORN AND WERE INSISTING THAT THE POW/MIA QUESTION BE DEFERRED PENDING THE RESOLUTION OF OTHER PROBLEMS. I PLEADED THAT THE LIBERATION OF EMMET KAY MIGHT WELL BE SEPARATED FROM THE MORE GENERAL POW/MIA QUESTION. SOUKAN SEEMED VERY DOUBTFUL THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED PROMPTLY.

WHITEHOUSE

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